

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0038

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, G, SY

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF PERES AND YARIV ON ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS

1. EX-NSC STAFF MEMBER WILLIAM QUANDT GAVE US FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF CURRENT VIEWS OF DEFMIN PERES AND INFOMIN YARIV CONCERNING PROSPECTS FOR EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AND SYRIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS IN 1975.

2. YARIV, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH QUANDT JAN 2, SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT SECOND STAGE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT WOULD BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. YARIV EXPRESSED READINESS FOR ISRAEL TO GIVE UP THE PASSES BUT NOT THE OIL FIELDS DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS. YARIV FURTHER SAID THAT A SECOND STAGE PARTIAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS WOULD BE DIFFICULT BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

3. PERES, IN MEETING WITH INSTITUTE SEMINAR GROUP ON MIDEAST DEC 30, INCLUDING SEVERAL DISTINGUISHED US PROFESSORS, ALSO EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE ABLE TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENTS WITH BOTH EGYPT AND SYRIAN IN 1975. PERES REPEATED TO SHILOAH GROUP HIS VIEW THAT ISRAEL SHOULD NOT GIVE UP EITHER OIL FIELDS OR THE PASSES, WHICH IS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM BY ISRAELI PRESS (TEL AVIV 7497, PARA 5).

4. IN PERES' VIEW, ACCORDING TO QUANDT, MOST SERIOUS
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DIFFICULTIES IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WOULD ARISE AFTER

CONCLUSION OF THESE SECOND STAGE AGREEMENTS. AT THAT POINT,
ISRAEL WOULD HAVE VERY LITTLE LEFT WITH WHICH TO BARGAIN.

5. COMMENT: PERES' PRIVATELY EXPRESSED OPINIONS
DIFFER STRIKINGLY FROM THE RATHER PESSIMISTIC TONE OF HIS
RECENT PUBLIC COMMENTS. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, YARIV
ALSO HAS NOT MADE THE OBSERVATIONS NOTED ABOVE PUBLICLY.
KEATING

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